

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, the President asked this Nation to fly the flag for our troops over the Fourth of July holiday. But while the Nation supports the active duty men and women in uniform serving in harm's way, the President is shortchanging the soldiers who are now serving and will be veterans in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I serve on the appropriations subcommittee most ably led by the ranking member, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), who has led the battle of pointing out the underfunding of the Veterans Administration for health care. We now see it is a fact.

Both the Republican leadership in the House and the Senate made a quick fix. The Democrats have said this fix is not enough, claiming that we will have a greater shortfall as the veteran soldiers from Iraq come home.

If you truly want to honor those serving, you have to pledge to honor them in the future. Fully funding veterans health care is the most patriotic way we can honor our troops, all of whom will some day be veterans.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS—GIVE VETERANS BETTER HEALTH CARE

(Mr. FILNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, this morning in "CQ Today" we see: "Shortfall in Veterans Funds Widened."

The chairman of our committee says, well, we have to find the right number somewhere; we have to find the right number.

Well, I tell you, we had a process where we had the right number. The veterans service organizations through this Independent Budget said exactly what was needed and what we should have both for this year and for the coming year. But did we listen to them? No.

The Democrats on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Democrats on this floor tried to amend the appropriations bills so we would get the money that veterans need. They were voted down by a strict party-line vote: all the Democrats voting for the veterans, all the Republicans voting against.

We are at war, Mr. Speaker. The way that we win a war is to make sure that the troops when they come home have sufficient funding for health care. I have a thousand veterans on the waiting list at my veterans hospital in San Diego. The brave young men and women who are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan will have a high probability of having post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD.

Will they get the treatment they need? No. Will they have to wait a year for a dental appointment? Yes.

Let us support our troops by supporting them when they come home with proper VA health care funding.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which a vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken tomorrow.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1220) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2005, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1220

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) **RATE ADJUSTMENT.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, effective on December 1, 2005, increase the dollar amounts in effect for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation by the Secretary, as specified in subsection (b).

(b) **AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.**—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) **COMPENSATION.**—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) **ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.**—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1115(1) of such title.

(3) **CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.**—The dollar amount in effect under section 1162 of such title.

(4) **NEW DIC RATES.**—The dollar amounts in effect under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1311(a) of such title.

(5) **OLD DIC RATES.**—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1311(a)(3) of such title.

(6) **ADDITIONAL DIC FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES WITH MINOR CHILDREN.**—The dollar amounts in effect under section 1311(b) of such title and paragraph (1) of section 1311(f) of such title (as redesignated by subsection (e) of this section).

(7) **ADDITIONAL DIC FOR DISABILITY.**—The dollar amounts in effect under sections 1311(c) and 1311(d) of such title.

(8) **DIC FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN.**—The dollar amounts in effect under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) **DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.**—

(1) **BASE FOR INCREASE.**—The increase under subsection (a) shall be made in the dollar amounts specified in subsection (b) as in effect on November 30, 2005.

(2) **PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE.**—Except as provided in paragraph (3), each such amount shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42

U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2005, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(3) **ROUNDING.**—Each dollar amount increased pursuant to paragraph (2) shall, if not a whole dollar amount, be rounded down to the next lower whole dollar amount.

(d) **SPECIAL RULE.**—The Secretary may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons within the purview of section 10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who are not in receipt of compensation payable pursuant to chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

(e) **DESIGNATION CORRECTION.**—Section 1311 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by redesignating the second subsection (e) (added by section 301(a) of the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-454; 118 Stat. 3610)) as subsection (f).

SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.

At the same time as the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2006, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in subsection (b) of section 2, as increased pursuant to that section.

SEC. 4. CODIFICATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2005 COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT PROVIDED IN PUBLIC LAW 108-363.

(a) **VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION.**—Section 1114 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "\$106" and inserting "\$108";

(2) in subsection (b), by striking "\$205" and inserting "\$210";

(3) in subsection (c), by striking "\$316" and inserting "\$324";

(4) in subsection (d), by striking "\$454" and inserting "\$466";

(5) in subsection (e), by striking "\$646" and inserting "\$663";

(6) in subsection (f), by striking "\$817" and inserting "\$839";

(7) in subsection (g), by striking "\$1,029" and inserting "\$1,056";

(8) in subsection (h), by striking "\$1,195" and inserting "\$1,227";

(9) in subsection (i), by striking "\$1,344" and inserting "\$1,380";

(10) in subsection (j), by striking "\$2,239" and inserting "\$2,299";

(11) in subsection (k)—

(A) by striking "\$82" both places it appears and inserting "\$84"; and

(B) by striking "\$2,785" and "\$3,907" and inserting "\$2,860" and "\$4,012", respectively;

(12) in subsection (l), by striking "\$2,785" and inserting "\$2,860";

(13) in subsection (m), by striking "\$3,073" and inserting "\$3,155";

(14) in subsection (n), by striking "\$3,496" and inserting "\$3,590";

(15) in subsections (o) and (p), by striking "\$3,907" each place it appears and inserting "\$4,012";

(16) in subsection (r), by striking "\$1,677" and "\$2,497" and inserting "\$1,722" and "\$2,564", respectively; and

(17) in subsection (s), by striking "\$2,506" and inserting "\$2,573".

(b) **ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.**—Section 1115(1) of such title is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "\$127" and inserting "\$130";

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking "\$219" and "\$65" and inserting "\$224" and "\$66", respectively;

(3) in subparagraph (C), by striking "\$86" and "\$65" and inserting "\$88" and "\$66", respectively;

(4) in subparagraph (D), by striking "\$103" and inserting "\$105";